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## **NASA Gives Students a Window on the World**

Students across Australia will have access to NASA Learning Technologies software making it possible to take a 'virtual fieldtrip' into the ancient Pilbara region of Western Australia thanks to an agreement forged between NASA and the Australian Centre for Astrobiology at Macquarie University.

The "World Wind" software tool is designed to give students the ability to conduct "real-world" science experiments and could inspire a new generation to embark on further studies and careers in science and exploration.

US Consul Stephen Smith attended the announcement of the Space Act agreement with Premier Carr and Macquarie University Vice-Chancellor Professor Yerbury in Sydney. Consul General Smith spoke about the diverse and long-standing relationship shared between the US and Australia, "This is yet another example of the partnership and cooperation that exists between our two countries -- combining the best of our talents and technologies to forge new opportunities in science and education."

NASA's Attaché to Australia Neal Newman explained, "NASA's mission - To Understand and Protect our Home Planet, to Explore the Universe and Search for Life, and to Inspire the Next Generation of Explorers -- is ambitious and we have had many of successes, but we have not achieved these alone. We have a long, rich history of international cooperation. This partnership with our friends at the Australian Centre for Astrobiology and Macquarie University will give students the thrill of viewing the Earth from space. It is a shining example of what can be achieved by working together."

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